

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P040A

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-8 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. These claims have accordingly been amended to recite the combination to which claim 1 is drawn.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that, since claim 1 is drawn to a combination of components but claims 2-8 are drawn to a closure member only, it is vague and indefinite as to whether claims 2-8 are meant to be drawn to the same combination which is recited in claim 1. Claims 2-8 have accordingly been amended to recite the combination to which claim 1 is drawn.

With respect to claim 4, the Examiner states that the recitation of "a conduit" in line 4 is made vague and indefinite by the recitation of "a conduit" in claim 1, lines 14 and 15. Claim 4 has accordingly been amended to change "a conduit" to "the conduit", since this conduit is the same conduit which is recited in claim 1, lines 14 and 15.

Claims 2-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schreuder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 396,239). In addition, claims 2-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (U.S.

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P040A

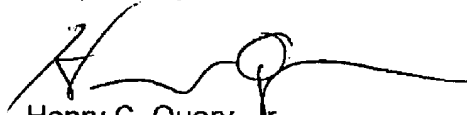
Patent No. 3,104,659). However, the Examiner has stated that claims 2-6 would be allowable if they are rewritten to recited the combination to which claim 1 has been drawn. These claims have been so rewritten. Therefore, applicant submits that claims 2-6 are now allowable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has stated that claim 1 would be allowable if it is rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, with respect to the recitation of "the conduit". However, applicant has instead amended claim 4 to eliminate any indefiniteness which may have been caused by the recitation of "a conduit" in that claim. Therefore, applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable.

The prior art made of record but not relied upon has been considered but is not believed to be pertinent to the patentability of the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, claims 1-8 are submitted as allowable. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry C. Query, Jr.
Reg. No. 35,650
(630) 260-8093

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